



The **Sandpaper**

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"The Pearl of the Desert"

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NAF Change of Command slated for Oct. 6

By JOC(SW) Donna Corvin

Capt. Larry W. Crane will relieve Capt. Carlos S. Badger as the 29th commanding officer of Naval Air Facility El Centro in a change of command ceremony scheduled for 1 p.m. Oct. 6, in the Sports Center here.

The guest speaker for the ceremony will be Rear Admiral Veronica Z. Froman, Commander, Navy Region Southwest, San Diego.

Crane, an Ottawa, Kan., native takes over at El Centro after a three-year tour as naval attaché for the U.S. Embassy, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Under Badger's leadership, NAF El Centro has greatly expanded fleet and training command support operations. Badger's next tour will be with the Commander, Navy Southwest Region command where he will serve as the Business Process Reengineering Manager.

Crane enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1962 and was honorably discharged after six years. After earning his degree in 1972, he entered the Navy through the Naval Aviation Officer Candidate program. In August 1973, Crane earned his naval flight officer wings.

Crane's tours of duty include Patrol Squadron 19, Moffett Field, Calif.; Instruc-



Capt. Carlos S. Badger

tor, Patrol Squadron 31, Moffett Field, Calif.; Personnel Exchange Program participant, #2 Squadron, Royal Dutch Navy, Volkenburg, the Netherlands; Assistant Washington Placement Officer, Naval Military Personnel Command, Washington, D.C.; Administration and Operations Officer, Patrol Squadron Eight, Brunswick, Maine; Operations Officer, Commander, Task Force 67, Naples, Italy; Executive Officer, Patrol Squadron 23, Brunswick,



Capt. Larry W. Crane

Maine; Commanding Officer, VP-23, Brunswick, Maine; Office of Naval Operations, Commander in Chief, Liaison Division, Washington D.C.; Commanding Officer, Naval Air Facility, Adak, Alaska.

Crane holds a bachelor's degree in education from Kansas State Teacher's College, Emporia, a master's degree in management from Troy State University, a master's degree in national security and stra-

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Follow Fire Department through 'Great Escape' week

Fire Prevention week base-wide activities begin Oct. 3. This year's theme, the "Great Escape" is part of a three-year public safety campaign designed to encourage the development and practice of home fire escape plans.

"Most people under-estimate the power and speed of a fire," said Assistant Fire Chief Steve N. Monteleone. "In the best case, you have only one or two minutes to escape from a typical house fire safely."

Fire Department personnel will be visiting housing units during fire prevention week to perform a fire safety check. They will be educating residence on what items are considered a fire safety hazard

in homes. Several other events are scheduled to take place around the base. For more information on the week's activities or general fire safety, call the Fire Prevention office at 339-2232/2233.

Oct. 9 marks the anniversary of the great Chicago fire of 1871 which killed 250 and left more than 100,000 homeless. Since 1911, the National Fire Protection Association has used the second week of October to advise the general public about the need for fire prevention.

"Our goal is to educate all...residents to take action and learn to be safer from home fires," said Monteleone. "We urge everyone...to plan and practice a home fire escape drill."

Captain's Corner

It is a season for change. The next century is just around the corner and Y2K issues/preparation have been the catalyst for many changes.

This new fiscal year has brought on a great change in the way the Navy does business, REGIONALIZATION! This will be a challenge for everyone. I'm sure there are a lot of "bugs" to be worked out, however, it will be a change for the better.

There is an increasing change in our OPTEMPO. More and more commands are using this facility for their training. One of the biggest reasons for that increase is a direct credit to all of you. Your reputation for hard work, expertise and incredible customer service is a well-known fact out in the fleet. A recent message from Strike Fighter Squadron 105 Commanding Officer, Cmdr. K. P. Miller, expressed that sentiment this way, "Overall, the support from every department here at El Centro was superb and contributed to the success of our detachment. It has been a few years since I operated from this base and the airspace and ranges remain some of the most accessible and well-kept in CONUS." Well done!

Many projects will be completed in the near future. The housing renovations will be completed soon. A new Education Center, for Vincennes University, in the NEX complex will be opening next Spring. This facility will provide educational opportunities for everyone. Judy Will's deserves our sincere gratitude for such a successful education program. Right next to the new Education Center, the new Cyber Café is being readied. Furniture and equipment for a TV lounge, a computer room with Internet connections, an electronic game room and coffee/juice bar has been purchased and we are awaiting delivery.

MWR facilities are rapidly changing. We now have jet skis and a variety of boats ready for check out at gear issue. Cosmic bowling is coming soon to the Sports Alley. A grand re-opening of the alley is scheduled for Oct. 5. Further details will be posted on the Command Channel and in the POW.

Finally, the change of command is scheduled for Oct 6. I'm moving on to be the Business Process Reengineering Manager at Navy Southwest Region command in San Diego. My time here has been challenging but very rewarding.



The biggest reward has been in knowing each one of you and watching how everyone has met these changes head on.

Though change is mostly good, it isn't necessarily painless. Depending on whom you talk to, some of the recent changes have been downright agonizing at times. I commend all of you for your hard work, great attitude and incredible support of this facility's mission.

I know Capt. Crane is impressed with your outstanding efforts and is looking forward to working with each one of you!

--Capt. C. S. Badger

The Sandpaper

Commanding Officer
CAPT C. S. BADGER

Executive Officer
CDR J. P. WILSON

Public Affairs Officer and Editor
JOC(SW) D. L. CORVIN

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Editor, The Sandpaper
Public Affairs Office
Naval Air Facility El Centro, CA 92243
(619) 339-2519

Navy Birthday Ball scheduled for Oct. 23

Navy: Past, Present and Future is the theme of this year's Navy Birthday Ball to be held Oct 23 in the Mirage Club ballroom. The evening's festivities begin at 6 p.m. with no host cocktails followed by dinner at 7 p.m.

The dinner entrée choices are Prime Rib or Chicken Dijon. During dinner, military members will perform the traditional Two-Bell ceremony and a Flag Passing ceremony followed by remarks from the guest

speaker, Lt. John Finn, a World War II Medal of Honor recipient.

After the traditional cake-cutting ceremony, dancing will begin with music being provided by Disc Jockey Oscar Garcia.

Memories Unlimited will offer portrait packages starting at \$12.

Dress for the event is Service Dress Blues with miniature medals, Dinner Dress

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tegic studies from Naval War College, Newport, R.I.

Crane's awards include two Legion of Merit medals, the Meritorious Service Medal, two Navy Commendation Medals and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. Crane is also veteran of Operation Desert Storm.

Crane is married to the former Vicki Kelley of Ottawa, Kan. They have a son, U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Daryl Crane, and a daughter, Tami, an elementary school teacher.



Navy Photo by Allen Corvin

Ribs, Chicken, Fun for All at Picnic

HM3 John A. Perez decorates a "victim" with whipped creme during the September Command Picnic. The dunking and pie throwing booth were as set up as Navy Ball fundraisers. The day's highlight was the volleyball tourney between the officers, chiefs and enlisted sailors. At the end of the day, the chiefs left the field undefeated.

NAVY

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Blues or Dinner Dress Blues with Jacket and miniature medals or equivalent formal civilian attire.

Tickets for the ball can be purchased from any Navy Ball representative. The prices are as follows, Military: E4 – E5 — \$5, E5 –E6 — \$7, E7 – E9 — \$15, CWO – O3 — \$18, O-4 and above — \$20. Civilian: GS1 – GS5 — \$13, GS6 – GS8 — \$15, GS9 – GS11 — \$18, GS12 and above — \$20. All other personnel, not listed in these categories, are also \$20. All military members purchasing tickets will be eligible for a 4-day pass, to be coordinated through their chain of command.

According to Lt. Fred Beredo, Navy Ball committee chairman, tickets should be purchased as early as possible since seating is limited in the ballroom.

Childcare, for children five years old and older, is being offered at the Youth Center from 6 p.m. – 1 a.m. at a cost of \$15 per child. To make reservations call 339-2644 by Oct. 15.

Navy Ball Representatives

OPS – AC3 Montano	339-2601
Medical – HM2 Portillo	339-2675
PW – YNC Hill	339-2530
Security – Veronica Zavala	339-2525
SFMU – AO2 Vrenick	339-2435
Supply/Bldg 214 – MSC Frage	339-2219
WEPS – AOAN Johnson	339-2606
Brown & Root – Pat Favela	339-2370
Team Shield – SPC Nichols	339-2388
MWR – Andre Thirkill	339-2330
PSD – DP3 King	339-2545

Chapel Call: *Key to Heaven's Gate*

Last Sunday I spoke on the topic of the glories of heaven (Revelation 22-23). I assured the Protestant community that whatever fellowship in worship we share here, it will be magnified many times in the kingdom of heaven.

I'm about to leave them (you) now and move on to ministry on board the USS Essex. I want to say farewell and thank you all for the wonderful support you have given the Religious Ministries department since I've been here.

But as I told the Protestant community, this doesn't have to be good-bye. Even though our nation has been largely secularized, surveys show that most Americans believe in an after-life. Truth is, getting to heaven is not as difficult as many believe. As I shared in my messaged on Sunday, it is **not** our good works or deeds that open heavens gate to us, it is repentance and faith.

Repentance is a surrender of the will to turn away from the

"Truth is, getting to heaven is not as difficult as many believe."

world's value system and to take on the mind and heart of God (Ephesians 4:22-24).

Faith is not an active but a passive word that means trusting in God alone for your salvation. Repentance and faith are the two keys that unlock heavens door for any person who desires them, no matter how sinful.

It has been a joy to serve you. I pray I see you there someday. God bless you all.

Chaplain K.A. Leonard

Happenings

Navy Birthday Ball Mugs

The Navy Ball committee is selling Navy Birthday Ball mugs. The 16-ounce, clear glass mugs, etched with the command logo and a number, entitles the owner to purchase beverages at a discounted price from now until Oct. 2000 at the Mirage Club. The mugs cost \$12 each if purchased before Oct. 23. After Oct. 23, the price goes up to \$15. All proceeds go toward this year's Navy Ball. To order call HMC(FMF) Salvador Rodriquez at 339-2630

Vincennes University

The next session begins Oct. 25. The following classes are scheduled:

- World Political Science
- Criminal Investigations
- Introduction to Humanities
- Practicum in Law Enforcement
- Learning the Windows Environment
- Intermediate Algebra

Call 339-2986 for more info.

CLEP/SAT/ACT Testing

CLEP/SAT/ACT tests are scheduled for Nov. 16 - 18 in the base Library. Personnel must sign up at least one week in advance at PSD. These tests are free to active duty military, \$44 for all others. Call 339-2474 for more information.

Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop is now open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. - noon. Call 339-2241 for more information.

Smoking Cessation Class

The next class is scheduled for Oct. 5 - 14 and is open to active duty, family members, retirees and civilian personnel. There is no cost for this class. Call 339-2626 to sign up.

Auto Hobby Shop

The following specials are offered during the month of October.

Oil Change - \$17. Includes labor, five quarts of oil, filter and tire rotation.

Wheel Alignment - \$39.95. For an extra \$10, tires will also be balanced.

Call 339-2689 for an appointment.

Gear Issue

Rent a Jet Ski for the introductory price of \$50 per day. The special is being offered for the month of October only. For more information on all available rental equipment call 339-2486.

RV Park

Full hook-up fees at the NAF RV park will increase on Nov. 1. The new fees will be:

Daily - \$13

Weekly - \$70

Monthly - \$225

For more information call 339-2486

Library

The normal operating hours at the Library are 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The following books have recently been added to the library's bookshelves:

The Rules Book -- Rules of commonly played sports and games

Free Stuff for Kids -- Get free items for kids through the mail.

Job Search -- Marketing your military experience.

10,000 Ideas for Term Papers, Projects, Reports and Speeches -- Research topics for every student's needs.

A video library for teens covering issues about moving, good studying habits and more is also available at the library. Call 339-2470 for a complete listing.

Youth Center

The Youth Center offers a before and after school program and the fees are based on family income. The center is open at 6:15 a.m. for early morning drop-off. The after school program offers a wide variety of recreational activities. For more information call 339-2644.

Mirage Club Pool

The pool has had several renovations during the summer months. The new water spa is up and running. New outdoor carpet has also been installed in the entire pool area. The following programs are offered at the pool:

Now Playing

Free movies are shown every Friday at 5 p.m. and every Saturday at 5 and 7 p.m. in the Base Theater. The theater is located in the NEX complex.

Oct. 8 **The Mummy**, PG-13, 2 hours, 15 minutes.

Oct. 9 **A Bug's Life**, G, 1 hour, 34 minutes.

Shakespeare in Love, R, 1 hour, 53 minutes.

Oct. 15 **The Thirteenth Floor**, R, 2 hours.

Oct. 16 **Harriet the Spy**, G, 1 hour, 42 minutes.

The Mod Squad, R, 1 hour, 34 minutes.

Oct. 22 **Forces of Nature**, PG-13, 1 hour, 45 minutes.

Oct. 23 **Mulan**, G, 1 hour, 28 minutes.
The Out of Towners, PG-13, 1 hour, 31 minutes.

Oct. 29 **Pushing Tin**, R, 2 hours, 4 minutes.

Oct. 30 **The Wizard of Oz**, G, 1 hour, 41 minutes

Ed TV, PG-13, 2 hours, 3 minutes.

PRT Swimming: 6:30 - 7:30 a.m., Wednesdays only.

Water Aerobics: 10 - 11 a.m., Monday through Friday.

Master Swimming: 11 a.m. - Noon, Monday through Friday.

The pool can be reserved for private parties after 6 p.m. The cost is \$25 per hour for active duty, \$40 per hour for all others. For more information call 339-2582.

Sports Shorts

Captain's Cup bowling begins Oct. 12. Contact your representative or call 339-2489 to join.

Free Tae Bo classes are offered in the Sports Center Aerobics room on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 11 a.m. - Noon.

Free Sports Judo classes are offered in the Sports Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 - 8 p.m.